



CONSUMER PROTECTION

FIGHTING IDENTIFY THEFT

Law enforcement officials are quick to point out that seniors are often the favorite victims for identity thieves. This is why we changed the law in our state to allow seniors to put a freeze on their credit before they become victims of identity theft, free of charge. Credit freezes are available to all other consumers for a \$10 fee.

I am pleased to report that since we approved credit freezes in April, the three major credit-reporting agencies will soon be implementing this common-sense policy on a national level. For more information, visit the state attorney general's website at www.atg.wa.gov/freeze.aspx, or call his office at 1-800-551-4636.



TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR AUTO THEFT

Auto theft in Washington is on the rise. To combat this growing crime the Legislature passed tough new penalties to put car thieves in jail and prevent repeat offenses. We also established the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority to review the auto-theft situation in Washington and make recommendations to the Legislature next year.

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State Representative Dave Upthegrove

SPECIAL REPORT TO SOUTH KING COUNTY

- HEALTH CARE
- LONG-TERM CARE
- HOUSING
- CONSUMER PROTECTION




PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

The Washington Prescription Drug Program (WPDP) is a new prescription drug discount program created by the Legislature a couple of sessions ago. **It is open to all Washington residents without prescription drug insurance coverage or whose insurance does not cover all their prescription drug needs.**

There are no other eligibility requirements or fees.

The Washington Prescription Drug Program card is available now.

Enroll on-line at
<http://www.rx.wa.gov>
or by calling 1-800-913-4146.





HEALTH CARE

IMPLEMENTING BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

We won't get a handle on health care costs until we improve the health care system. That's why we implemented the reforms recommended by the governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care.

These reforms focus on preventing chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease, and cuts red tape by moving toward electronic medical records.

These reforms also strengthen our public health system to better respond to epidemics and ensure your food safety.



MEDICARE PART D

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COPAYMENTS

Under the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug law, very low-income seniors and disabled people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid would be forced to pay copayments for needed medications.

I didn't think this was fair and voted to pass legislation to allow the state to pay the copayments so these individuals get the medication they need.



LONG-TERM CARE

SUPPORTING NURSING HOMES

Like everything else in health care, quality nursing-home care is becoming more and more expensive.

We passed new legislation to make it easier for Medicaid recipients and seniors to get access to quality, nursing-home care.



BETTER TRAINING

FOR LONG-TERM CARE WORKERS

If you need care in your home, or in a long-term care facility, the quality of the care you receive depends on how much training the health-care worker has undergone.

You deserve to know that person taking care of you is highly qualified. That's why I supported legislation to evaluate current training requirements for long-term care workers who work in homes and assisted living facilities.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Housing price increases threaten to put seniors out of their homes. The state recognizes this and offers a handful of property-tax exemptions to low-income seniors and disabled adults. I sponsored legislation to make it easier for more seniors to qualify for these exemptions and will work with my colleagues to make sure it gets passed this year. For information about current property tax exemptions for seniors, please call (206) 296-3920, or toll-free (800) 325-6165 ext 3920.

PROTECTING MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS

Affordable housing is scarce in Washington. Mobile home parks provide safe, affordable housing to thousands of seniors in the Puget Sound region. Rising property values are tempting many mobile-home park owners to sell. We took steps to help preserve mobile homes parks and assist residents who are forced to move if a park is sold.



"Seniors should be able to receive long-term care in their homes if they choose."
Rep. Dave Upthegrove testifying before a legislative committee